## Claims

[c1]

A method for securely communicating with a server program using a secure hypertext transfer protocol which by default uses a first port number associated therewith, said method practiced in connection with a hypertext transfer protocol which defaults to the use of a second port number associated therewith, said method comprising:

(a)configuring the server program so that it listens for requests for secure hypertext transfer protocol sessions on the second port number rather than the first port number;

(b)receiving at the server program on the second port number a first data packet in a manner that is consistent with the secure hypertext transfer protocol, except that the request is received on the second port number rather than the first port number; (c)outputting from the server program a response to the first data packet in a manner that is consistent with the secure hypertext transfer protocol, except that the request was received on the second port number rather than the first port number.

[c2]

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[c1] The method of claim 1 wherein the secure hypertext transfer protocol is the https protocol and the hypertext transfer protocol is the http protocol.

[c3]

[c1] The method of claim 1 wherein the first port number is 443 and the second port number is 80.

□ □ [c4]

[c1] The method of claim 1 wherein, before the first data packet is received by the server program on the second port, it passes through a system that is configured in a manner that would block the first data packet if the first data packet were addressed to the first port.

[c5]

[c1] The method of claim 1 further comprising the following additional step: after step (a), directing a client program to request information from the server program using a resource locator comprising an indication to use the secure hypertext transfer protocol and an indication to use the second port number.

[c6]

[c4] The method of claim 4 further comprising the following additional step: after step (a), directing a client program to request information from the server program using a resource locator comprising an indication to use the secure hypertext transfer protocol and an indication to use the second port number.

[c7]

[c1] The method of claim 1 further comprising the following additional step:

after step (a), directing a client program to post information to the server program using a resource locator comprising an indication to use the secure hypertext transfer protocol and an indication to use the second port number.

- [c8] [c4] The method of claim 4 further comprising the following additional step: after step (a), directing a client program to post information to the server program using a resource locator comprising an indication to use the secure hypertext transfer protocol and an indication to use the second port number.
- [c9] [c1] The method of claim 1 wherein at least one step is performed using the Internet.
- A method for operating a web server system comprising: (a) configuring the web server system to use port 80 for communications using a protocol selected from the group consisting of: secure socket layer, secure sockets layer, SSL, secure hypertext transfer protocol, and HTTPS;
  - (b) receiving at port 80 at the web server system a first data packet that is formatted in accordance with the protocol; and
  - (c) responding to the first data packet with a second data packet that is formatted in accordance with the protocol.

A web server system comprising:

- (a) web server software configured to use port 80 for communications using a protocol selected from the group consisting of: secure socket layer, secure sockets layer, SSL, secure hypertext transfer protocol, and HTTPS;
- (b) means for receiving at port 80 at the web server system a first data packet that is formatted in accordance with the protocol; and
- (c) means for responding to the first data packet with a second data packet that is formatted in accordance with the protocol.

[c11]

[c10]